المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE
31 October 1994

Following is the text of an appeal issued by Mr Salem Azzam, Secretary General of the Islamic Council, urging all Muslim brethren in Pakistan to eschew sectarian differences in the interest of the overriding need of the hour for strengthening Muslim solidarity.

Deeply distressing accounts of fraticidal clashes among groups of Muslim brethren in Pakistan over sectarian differences are causing keenly felt dismay and disappointment all over the Muslim world. Such ugly incidents of wanton loss of Muslim lives and property are wholly repugnant to the spirit of Muslim brotherhood and are defiant repudiation of Quranic injunctions which strictly forbid all Muslims who repose faith in the Kalima Tayeba to cause any harm to one another.

These deplorable incidents are particularly disappointing since the Islamic world has always looked up to Pakistani Muslims as architects of their Islamic republic in this turbulent century, and, therefore, as a beacon of hope and aspiration for the revival of the solidarity of the Ummah.

In all humility I feel deeply constrained to make this fervent appeal to all Muslim brethren in Pakistan not to lose sight of the overriding need of the hour and to read the writing on the wall. The Muslim Ummah is passing through a critical juncture. Poised on the crossroads of destiny, Muslims are faced with the deadly designs of their enemies who are employing every tactic and using every force to keep them disunited and weak and defenceless, so as to remain under their domination and dictate. The relentless effort to frustrate all attempts by Muslims everywhere to acquire any defensive strength, whether in Pakistan, Iran or elsewhere, is evidence of this design. The enemies conspire against all Muslims and make no distinction of their origin or sectarian affiliations. The need for Muslims now is to forge unity to wage their struggle for survival and not fritter away their strength in mutual destruction. The Muslims of Pakistan need to set an example of unity worthy of emulation by all Muslims.

16, Grosvenor Crescent London SW1X 7EP Tel: 071-235 9832 Fax: 071-823 1590